

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

HANNAH ASHBROOK,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Docket No. 1:24-cv-00165-CLC-SKL
JURY DEMAND

MEIGS COUNTY, TENNESSEE, et al.,

Defendants.

Deposition of:

DOYLE FUGATE

Taken on behalf of the Plaintiff
November 8, 2024

Commencing at 12:15 p.m.

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1 custody."

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. That happens, doesn't it?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. So what I want to know is how many times
6 have you, just watching what's going on in the
7 courtroom, saw something that you thought was a
8 crime and you went over and arrested them?

9 **A. None.**

10 Q. It's never happened?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. So if you put somebody in custody in the
13 courtroom, it's because a judge told you to?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. But you've got the ability to arrest
16 people, don't you?

17 **A. Yes. I'm deputized.**

18 Q. So if somebody came into the courtroom and
19 they were falling down drunk, you can arrest them
20 for public intoxication?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. If somebody came into the courtroom and
23 started jumping up and down and screaming and
24 yelling, you could arrest them for disorderly
25 conduct?

1 **A. No, not really.**

2 Q. Here's a little bit better view.

3 Still don't recollect her?

4 **A. She looks familiar.**

5 Q. Okay.

6 **A. But I can't -- it's been so long, you**
7 **know.**

8 Q. I understand.

9 So do you know what this lawsuit's about,
10 Officer Fugate?

11 **A. Well, I've heard a little bit about it.**

12 Q. Tell me what you've heard.

13 **A. About Judge Stokes doing a -- having her**
14 **arrested for contempt of court.**

15 Q. Okay.

16 **A. That's basically all I've heard as far**
17 **as...**

18 Q. Do you know what she did that was in
19 contempt of court?

20 **A. Well, trying to think. I don't want to**
21 **say something that's not...**

22 Q. Let me ask you this question. Let me
23 rephrase this a little bit.

24 Do you have any recollection of being in a
25 courtroom and Judge Stokes calling Ms. Ashbrook

1 down for something?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. Do you have any recollection of
4 Ms. Ashbrook being in a courtroom and
5 Judge Stokes saying, "I'm holding you in criminal
6 contempt"?

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. Now, if you were in the courtroom and
9 Ms. Ashbrook was creating a disturbance, what
10 would you do as the court officer?

11 **A. Well, usually, if they're causing a
12 disturbance, I'll have them to go out into the
13 hallway first and then talk to them.**

14 Q. What will you tell them?

15 **A. Tell them they're going to have to quieten
16 down while they're in the courtroom.**

17 Q. And is that something you routinely do?

18 **A. Very seldom we ever have to do that. Most
19 people are pretty well...**

20 Q. Behaved?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. But it's something you've done before,
23 isn't it?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. It's not unusual for somebody to talk a

1 little too loud or something like that, is it?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. Do you have a recollection of anybody
4 sitting in a courtroom with Judge Stokes who was
5 hugging and kissing each other during court?

6 **A. No, not that I can remember.**

7 Q. If you witnessed that, what would you do?

8 **A. Normally, I would have them to -- you**
9 **know, stop and tell them it's inappropriate to be**
10 **in the courtroom, you know, doing that.**

11 Q. And you'd talk to them about it?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Let me move forward here to Camera 10
14 Part 2.

15 All right. This is 10:48:58. So let's
16 back up just a little bit.

17 All right. We have just started Camera 10
18 Part 2 at 10:48:42, and we see Judge Stokes
19 outside the courtroom.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. So when Judge Stokes has criminal sessions
22 going on, a lot of times the DA and the defense
23 lawyers, they're working on the cases?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Is that right?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Do you recognize the officer?

3 **A. That appears to be Ben Christian.**

4 Q. Okay. All right. 11:24:00, we see
5 Judge Stokes coming back down the hallway?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You see Judge Stokes still in the area
8 outside the courtroom?

9 **A. That appears to be him.**

10 Q. I understand you can't see his face there.

11 **A. Right.**

12 Q. But he's a pretty big fellow, right?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. At 11:25:05 do you see this lady who's
15 come back into the hallway?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Do you recognize her?

18 **A. She definitely looks awfully familiar.**

19 **I know I've seen her somewhere.**

20 Q. Is this you who's also entered the screen
21 at that point?

22 **A. Yes. Yeah.**

23 Q. Does she approach you?

24 **A. I think she's talking to Officer Brandon**
25 **Crowe right there.**